

**From:** [Burdick, Melanie](#)  
**To:** [Kovatch, Charles](#)  
**Cc:** [Melgin, Wendy](#)  
**Subject:** RE: World Fish Migration Day and Grand Rapids UWFP  
**Date:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 10:21:00 AM

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I am aware of the project, and I'm available for the call.

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**From:** Kovatch, Charles  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 10:15 AM  
**To:** Melgin, Wendy <[melgin.wendy@epa.gov](mailto:melgin.wendy@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Burdick, Melanie <[Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov](mailto:Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: World Fish Migration Day and Grand Rapids UWFP  
Thanks. Lets connect after the call either today or on Tuesday.

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**From:** Melgin, Wendy  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 11:13 AM  
**To:** Kovatch, Charles <[Kovatch.Charles@epa.gov](mailto:Kovatch.Charles@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Burdick, Melanie <[Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov](mailto:Burdick.Melanie@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: World Fish Migration Day and Grand Rapids UWFP  
I'm copying Melanie, the lead for Michigan. Maybe she has heard about it or has time to be on the call but don't think this is something that we would spend a lot of time on.

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**From:** Kovatch, Charles  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 10:11 AM  
**To:** Melgin, Wendy <[melgin.wendy@epa.gov](mailto:melgin.wendy@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: World Fish Migration Day and Grand Rapids UWFP  
Its Grand Rapids, MI. Is there another person who you could have participate or listen?

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**From:** Melgin, Wendy  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 11:07 AM  
**To:** Kovatch, Charles <[Kovatch.Charles@epa.gov](mailto:Kovatch.Charles@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: World Fish Migration Day and Grand Rapids UWFP  
I'll be on a call with DOJ at this time. Is this Grand Rapids, Michigan? There is also a Grand Rapids, MN and the email does not mention the state.

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**From:** Kovatch, Charles  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 8:31 AM  
**To:** Melgin, Wendy <[melgin.wendy@epa.gov](mailto:melgin.wendy@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: World Fish Migration Day and Grand Rapids UWFP  
Wendy

I'm following up from my voice message to talk to you about this USFWS proposed activity day for WFMD. While HQ-404 supports the concept to promote fish passage, we don't have anything more to add. Roy Simon with the Urban Waters Federal Partnership also supports the idea and has connected USFWS with some folks in the Grand Rapids area.

There is a call planned for 3 pm eastern today. I will send you that information when its available. Please feel free to call to further discuss.

Thanks,  
Charles

**From:** Wells, Susan [[mailto:susan\\_wells@fws.gov](mailto:susan_wells@fws.gov)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 2:23 PM

**To:** [matt@grandrapidswhitewater.org](mailto:matt@grandrapidswhitewater.org); Scott Hicks <[scott\\_hicks@fws.gov](mailto:scott_hicks@fws.gov)>

**Cc:** Simon, Roy <[Simon.Roy@epa.gov](mailto:Simon.Roy@epa.gov)>; Kovatch, Charles <[Kovatch.Charles@epa.gov](mailto:Kovatch.Charles@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** World Fish Migration Day and Grand Rapids UWFP

Gentlemen,

I had hoped to reach out before now. Unfortunately sickness and quick turn work assignments had taken up some of my time. My apologies.

On a personal note, I was born and raised in Grand Rapids. Going down to the fish ladder growing up was a common event. I am personally very proud and excited about what this project is going to do for my home city, the fisheries, and how we can use what this UWFP is doing to restore the river as a model for other urban areas.

Here is a little bit about World Fish Migration Day and what the USFWS is thinking.

- World Fish Migration Day is a one day global-local event to create awareness on the importance of open rivers and migratory fish. Organizations from around the world organize around the common theme of connecting fish, rivers, wetlands, and people.
- This year WFMD falls on April 21st - the day before Earth Day. It occurs every two years.
- On this day and in many cases on Earth Day, we are recognize the value of fish migration through educational and outdoor activities.
- The USFWS is the North American lead for this years WFMD
- USFWS is looking to showcase one project area where we can direct media attention to - Grand Rapids UWFP is a perfect fit for this
- We would look to do an event ( small or large) where we could tell the story to the country and the world.
- Potential events could be: fishing day, fishing outdoor rec festival, or even a school education trip to the river
- Why Grand Rapids:
  - The primary purpose of the UWFP is to address fish pasasge
  - urban area that realizes the multiple benefits to the communities if fish passage is restored - we will want to highlight all these benefits
  - the Private - public partnership. Grand Rapids is the model for how partnerships should work. Collaborative from both sectors.
  - We want to give this partnership a national and international platform to tell the story of your project

I would like to set up a call to discuss further. Would folks be available later this week? Perhaps Thursday or Friday? If not this week then next week.

Thank you for you time and attention to this opportunity.

**Susan E. Wells**

National Coordinator - FWS Fish Passage Program  
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